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REVIEWS AND ABSTRACTS OF LITERATURE

The Stanford Revision and Extension of the Binet-Simon Scale for Measuring Intelligence. L. M. TERMAN and others. Baltimore: Warwick and York. 1917. Pp. 179.

In 1916 the Stanford Revision and Extension of the Binet-Simon Scale was published, together with a guide for its use, under the title, *The Measurement of Intelligence.* The present book is an explanation of how the scale was constructed, with reasons for the same, and also a discussion of its reliability. The scale is based on tests on about 1,000 unselected children.

One of the most important discussions concerns the method of reckoning the amount of deviation from normal intelligence. In the Binet scale it was reckoned in years. Terman shows that this is incorrect, because the rate of mental growth slows down with age, and a defect of two years at twelve is equal to one year at six years. Evidence is given to prove that the rate of growth is such that the intelligence quotient, that is, the child's mental age divided by his chronological age, is the proper method of calculating mental deviation.

Another vital question is the extent of the dependence of mental age on the social environment. Terman agrees with most previous investigators that children of good social environment test higher than those of poor environment, but thinks heredity is the major cause. If environmental influence is a major cause, the correlation between social status and mental age should increase with age, whereas the fact is that it decreases in his results.

Mental age and success in school work are compared. The correlation here is .45. Children of the same mental age are found to be rather widely scattered through the grades. The efforts of school grading to secure homogeneous groups have not been successful, and a greater use of mental tests as a basis for grading is to be inferred. Teachers are too much inclined to promote by age, to overestimate the intelligence of older, retarded children, and to underestimate that of the younger, advanced children. On the whole the book is decidedly useful to those who have testing of children to do, and want to acquire a thorough knowledge of the merits of the Stanford Revision.

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